

The Daily Courant.

Saturday, August 28. 1703

London, August 27.

The last Post from Holland brought over a Vindication of Monsieur d'Opdam's Conduct in the Battle of Ekeren, printed at the Hague, not without that General's Consent and Approbation, for we are well inform'd it was dispers'd among his Friends by his own Secretary. It is too long to be all contain'd in this Paper, we must therefore refer the latter part of it to our next.

Monsieur d'Opdam is blam'd for 2 things, 1. For exposing his Army to the Enemy by encamping at Ekeren. 2. For retreating to Breda and leaving his Army engag'd with the Enemy. If he be justified in these Particulars, he is clear'd from all Reproach.

Now in the first place, he was so far from being of opinion that the Troops might safely encamp at Ekeren, that it was against his mind they advanc'd thither. The truth is, with 13 Battallions and 26 Squadrons, instead of being in a Condition to force the Enemy in their Lines, he had reason to apprehend being insulted by them. He was sensible, more than any other, of the dangerous Situation of that Camp. He foresaw and foretold the Consequences of it. He communicated those Sentiments more than once to Monsieur Hop and the Generals. Monsieur Slangenburg's Letter to the States, in which he names only himself and Count Tilly, has made People suppose that Monsieur d'Opdam was against retreating, and obstinately dispos'd to keep his Ground at Ekeren, as not being sufficiently aware of the Peril he was in. We shall not examine into the Motives of Monsieur Slangenburg's forbearing to mention Monsieur d'Opdam with himself and Count Tilly; but 'tis presum'd that General will not dare to deny that it was Monsieur d'Opdam's opinion as well as theirs, that the Army could not be safe at Ekeren. Not but that, should he deny it, the following Letter would suffice to prove this Point beyond all Contradiction.

The Copy of a Letter Written by Monsieur d'Opdam to Mr. Secretary Fagel, from the Camp at Ekeren, June 28, 1703.

S I R,

BY the Letter which I have done my self the honour to Write to their High Mightinesses, you may be inform'd in general of the State of Affairs in these Quarters. But I cannot forbear acquainting you in particular with the uneasiness and perplexity I am in. That I might not be accus'd of hindring the execution of the Project concerted, I have detach'd 10 Battallions from the little Army I command; and sent them into Flanders to Monsieur Coehorn who desir'd them of me. On the other side, the Duke of Marlborough and Monsieur d'Auverquerque write me word, that they cannot possibly weaken their Army by sending me the Reinforcement I want. Thus am I involv'd in the greatest difficulties in the World. I am not very safe, I am even in danger of being attack'd in my Camp. Besides, I do not see how with 13 Battallions 'tis possible to attack the En-

my, who are much stronger than I, and who are cover'd by Retrenchments, and behind Lines well Fortified with Palisadoes and broad Ditches: In-
somuch, that it would be a rash attempt to endeavour to force them. Major General Sparre with 12 Battallions could not, without great efforts and loss, force the Lines of the Country of Waes which were defended but by 5 Battallions: What Success then can I promise my self in attacking the Enemy when stronger by half than I? But supposing I should have the good Fortune to beat them out of their Lines, you will easily judge it cannot be without considerable Loss, and that afterwards I shall be in no manner of Condition to execute the Grand Design projected with the few Troops I shall have left. The utmost that could be made of it, would be gaining a little more Ground, and raising some Contributions; and 'tis not worth while to run so evident a Risque for so small an Advantage. I must confess I think 'tis not the true Interest of the State. However, if it shall be thought proper to send me such an Order, I will execute it without bogling; Danger shall never make me shrink when the Service of my Country calls upon me. But after all 'tis a cruel hardship upon me to be left to the hazard of undergoing some Slur; and I must tell you very plainly, that I cannot possibly Serve on such Terms; nor unless their High Mightinesses will think fit to maintain the Honour of my Character better than they have done hitherto.

Sign'd

J. B. Van. Wassenauer.

As for the second Point, Monsieur d'Opdam's Retreat to Breda, let the Circumstances of the Action be fairly consider'd, and the Field of Battle duly survey'd, and he will be found to stand in need of no other Justification. Monsieur d'Opdam reports in his Memorial to the States of Holland, that on the 30th of June, the day of Battle, the Generals resolv'd unanimously to retire to Lillo, and that the Troops had begun to march when the Enemy attack'd them. The Village of Ordenen was the sole Passage to Lillo: Wherefore Monsieur d'Opdam and the other Generals judg'd it of the last Importance to secure it, and in the mean time to cause all the Artillery and the Baggage to advance that way. The Enemy, who foresaw this, made a great Circuit to surround the Army, and possess themselves of the Village of Ordenen, to the end they might bar the Passage of our Troops by the only Road to Lillo. While they march'd to Ordenen to hem in our Army, part of their Troops fell upon our Artillery and Baggage which were filing off (as was resolv'd) by the Digue that runs from Ekeren to Ordenen. It may be guess'd how great a Confusion must needs be occasion'd by so many Waggons, Horses, and Servants, all endeavouring to get away. Monsieur d'Opdam had already commanded some Battallions to take Post in the Village of Ordenen; and Monsieur Slangenburg with some other Battallions was march'd towards Hoeven to favour likewise the general Retreat. By the several Detachments made from so little an Army, Monsieur d'Opdam was left on the Digue of Wilmer-

Wilmerdonck with only the 2 Regiments of Slangenburg and Fagel; but he judg'd the Post of Ordenen to be of so great Importance, that he order'd those 2 Battallions likewise to advance towards Ordenen under the Command of Count Dohna. Thus it appears plainly, that Monsieur d'Opdam, after he had very prudently provided for securing the principal Post, which was the Village of Ordenen, remain'd alone and expos'd to whatever might happen. Mean time foreseeing, that if the Enemies should, notwithstanding all his Precautions to prevent them, possess themselves of the Village of Ordenen, they would soon be Masters of all the Artillery and the Baggage, he dispatch'd his Aides de Camp to the other Generals to send him Succours; but to no purpose: They were so warmly engag'd with the Enemy near Muysbroeck, that he could have no Succours, nor so much as an Answer from them: Some time after the Enemy beat our Troops out of Ordenen, and pursued them along the Digue which extends from Ordenen to Wilmerdonck, till they came almost under the Artillery of Collonel Verschuur; When Monsieur d'Opdam, apprehending the Enemy would take the Cannon after the first Discharge which Collonel Verschuur made, quitted the Digue and struck into a Road behind Wilmerdonck to rejoin his Army; but finding that Road lin'd on both sides by the Enemies Soldiers, he was oblig'd to ride directly to Eckeren. 'Twas then between 7 and 8 a Clock in the Evening. He did not think of finding any of the Enemy in Eckeren. The great Circuit they took to encompass our Army, by Capelle, by Muysbroeck, and by Hoeven as far as Ordenen, made it highly improbable they should leave any Men in Eckeren. Monsieur d'Opdam follow'd by 25 or 30 Persons was not known at first; but the Inhabitants of the Village discovering him, he was forc'd to pass forward, not daring to turn back: He hoped still that by turning to the Left, he might yet get to his Army, but unhappily he found the Enemy in the way scatter'd in small Parties, following their Army, along the several Roads that go from Eckeren to Ordenen. He was compell'd therefore to take to the great Heath, where he consulted 2 Officers that follow'd him whether by striking off to the Left he might recover the Army; and they answer'd that it was a hopeless Attempt, and that he would infallibly fall into the Enemy's Hands. Monsieur d'Opdam was desirous to make to Bergen op Zoom at least; but those Officers represented to him, that the Hazard was equal, and that besides there were Marshes in the Way which would be extremely difficult to pass. 'Twas no time to be long deliberating what Course to take; he had been discover'd, and was actually pursued by the Enemy. He was follow'd till he came within 4 Leagues of Breda; He lost some Horses in his retreat; and his Servants who could not keep up with him were taken.

This plain Account of Monsieur d'Opdam's Case clearly demonstrates, that he behav'd himself as a General, who in time of Action ought to appear where his presence may be most necessary, and not keep with one Body; that he was left alone at Wilmerdonck, by being oblig'd to detach all the Troops he had with him to secure the Passage by which the Army might draw off; that he was in the Battle 4 or 5 hours; that when he left Wilmerdonck and was forc'd to keep on to Eckeren, his design was to get to some of his Troops, with them to return and make head against the Enemy that came out of Ordenen towards our Cannon, and not at all to retire out of the Fight; that he unfortunately fell in among the Enemy, while he was endeavouring to join his own Troops: To be short, that his Retreat was absolutely necessary and unavoidable; that he was hard pursued, and constrain'd to make the best of his Way to Breda.

Sheilds, August 24. Two Men of War which convoy'd two Russia Ships to the Northward are return'd, so that we have 4 Men of War to attend our laden Fleet; they are cruising on this Coast at present, the Sea running so high that they cannot ride at the Bar: and the Wind being boisterous retards the lading of the Vessels likewise, there being not above 30 laden yet.

Yarmouth, August 25. We have still in our Roads about 70 Sail of Light Colliers under the Convoy of the Warwick and Newport Men of War, which will sail with the next Tide for Newcastle, if the Wind continue good.

Deale, August 26. Here are now in the Downes Her Majesty's Ships the Chester, Drednought, Deptford, Dunwich, Foway, Loo, Swan and Woolwich, with 45 Merchant Ships bound for Virginia, 7 for Lisbon, 5 for Guinea, 2 for Venice, 2 for Antegoa, one for New-England, and one for Dublin.

London, August 28. Orders are given to the Queen's Upholsterer to furnish the Cabbins of the Man of War which is to carry the Arch-duke of Austria from Holland to Portugal, in the same manner as that Ship was which carried the now Queen Dowager of Spain to the Groyne.

The Earl of Orrery died two days ago without Issue, and is succeeded in Honour and Estate by his Brother Mr. Charles Boyle.

Pasquin's serious and comical Oration to Pope Clement XI. and the Romans, upon the late dreadful Inundations and Earthquakes that have happen'd in Italy this present Year 1703. Wherein he shews 1st. That Injustice, Idolatry and Superstition, have been the Overthrow of the most powerful Empires and Governments in the World. 2d, That Inundations, Earthquakes, and suchlike Prodigies of Divine Vengeance, have been the Forerunners of such wonderful Revolutions. This he demonstrates from Antiquity and History out of the best Greek and Roman Historians. 3d, He shews the true Causes of Inundations, Earthquakes, and other direful Effects of the Convulsions of Nature. 4. He draws a Parallel between the Pagan and Romish Idolatry, wherein he has more fully answer'd the Romanists Article of the Invocation of Saints, than any Book of Controversie yet extant. Printed for William Norwood over against the Inner-Temple-Gate, Fleet-street; and Sold by John Nutt near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s. 6 d.

ON Wednesday the First of September 1703, will be expos'd to Sale by the Candle at Lloyd's Coffee-House in Lombard-street, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, about 120 Pipes of Rich New Canaries taken as Prize, being an entire Parcel none Sold out. Catalogues of the said Wines will be dispers'd tomorrow, and the Wines will be shewn from Monday next to the time of Sale, in Whitcherly's Yard in Thames-street, and Bear-Key near the Custom-House. To be Sold by Lawrence Towne Sworne Broker, in Little-Tower-street.

††† A Doctor in Physick, Cures all the Degrees, and Indispositions, in Venereal Persons; and by a most easie, safe, and expeditious Method: He likewise gives his Advice in all Diseases, and Prescribes a Cure. Dr. Harbörrough (a Graduate Physician) in Great Knight-Riders-Street, near Doctors-Commons.

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THE Shortest Way to Peace and Unity. By the Author of *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*. Price 6 d.

THE Adventures of Telemachus the Son of Ulysses. In Five parts. The 5th Edition. Printed for A. and J. Churchill, and Sold by Ralph Smith by the Royal Exchange.